

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04

CEA-01 PRS-01 PA-01 ARAE-00 /080 W

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P R 211800Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1076

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 6640

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PE

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER DE LA PUENTE HOLDS FIRST PRESS

CONFERENCE - WELCOMES FOREIGN INVESTMENT

REF: LIMA 3079, LIMA 6537

1. SUMMARY: NEWLY APPOINTED PERUVIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, JOSE DE LA PUENTE RADBILL, HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 19 AND TOUCHED ON WIDE RANGE OF FOREIGN POLICY TOPICS INCLUDING REMARKS WELCOMING FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN PERU, PERU'S CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO THE ANDEAN PACT AND THE GOP'S DECISION TO TURN ITS PRIORITY ATTENTION FROM THIRD WORLD ISSUES TO ITS RELATIONS WITHIN THIS HEMISPHERE. END SUMMARY

2. IN HIS FIRST DAY ON THE JOB JULY 19, PERU'S NEWLY APPOINTED FOREIGN MINISTER JOSE DE LA PUENTE HELD A 60-MINUTE PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE GAVE AN INDICATION OF THE
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DIRECTIONS PERU'S FOREIGN POLICY WILL TAKE DURING

HIS TENURE. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS REPORTING OF DE LA PUENTE'S REMARKS, HE CONFIRMED THAT, AS PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ HAD STATED IN HIS MARCH 31 SPEECH (LIMA 3079), PERU WOULD NOW GIVE PRIORITY ATTENTION TOWARD LATIN AMERICA. HE SAID THAT WITHOUT PREJUDICING THE ADVANCES MADE BY PERU WITHIN THE NONALIGNED MOVEMENT, HIS MINISTRY WOULD CONCENTRATE ON THIS HEMISPHERE WHERE "GEOPOLITICAL ELEMENTS PRESENTED A CERTAIN URGENCY AND A SPECIAL PRIORITY."

3. DE LA PUENTE REFERRED TO THE CREATION OF THE NEW MINISTRY OF INTEGRATION (LIMA 6537) AS "THE MOST PALPABLE EXPRESSION THAT OUR GOVERNMENT IS INTERESTED" IN REGIONAL INTEGRATION. HE NOTED THAT HE EXPECTED HIS MINISTRY TO COOPERATE CLOSELY WITH THE NEW ONE IN ORDER TO FOSTER PERU'S OBJECTIVES IN THE REGIONAL CONTEXT (ALTHOUGH HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WOULD CONTINUE TO HAVE THE MAJOR ROLE.). HE CLAIMED THAT PERU HAS NOT CHANGED ITS POSITION WITH REGARD TO THE ANDEAN PACT'S DECISION 24; RATHER, PERU "WAS AWARE THAT THERE WERE CERTAIN MECHANISMS WHICH CAN BE READJUSTED IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE PRECISELY THESE SAME OBJECTIVES FOR WHICH DECISION 24 WAS APPROVED." HE STATED THAT DECISION 24 REPRESENTS AN ELEMENT OF SECURITY NOT ONLY FOR THE ANDEAN PACT COUNTRIES BUT ALSO FOR THE COUNTRIES THAT PROVIDE THE "HEALTHY FOREIGN INVESTMENT THAT HAS TO COME TO OUR COUNTRIES."

4. IN A POSITIVE REFERENCE TO THE ROLE OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN PERU, THE NEW FOREIGN MINISTER WAS QUOTED AS HAVING SAID, "IF SOME OF THE TRANSNATIONAL ENTERPRISES WHICH OPERATE IN OUR COUNTRY HAVE BEEN A NEGATIVE FACTOR, IT IS PARTLY BECAUSE WE SINNED BY NOT FIXING THE RULES OF THE GAME, LETTING THEM ACT FREELY." FURTHER ON, HE SAID, "WE WANT TO RECEIVE HEALTHY FOREIGN INVESTMENT, RESPECTFUL OF OUR LEGAL FRAMEWORK (ORDENIMIENTO) AND WHICH LIMITS ITS ACTION TO THE DEMANDS AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN, ACTING RIGOROUSLY WITHIN OUR LAWS." LESS POSITIVELY, DE LA PUENTE INDICATED THAT THE TRANSNATIONALS SHOULD LIMIT THEIR INVESTMENT TO SECTORS NOT PREVIOUSLY THE BENEFICIARIES OF TRANSNATIONAL INVESTMENT IN ORDER TO INCREASE DEVELOPMENT.

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5. TURNING TO PERU'S IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORS, DE LA PUENTE SAID THAT PERU HAD EXPRESSED ITS FULL UNDERSTANDING AND SYMPATHY FOR BOLIVIA'S MARITIME ASPIRATIONS. HE ADDED THAT THE CONVERSATIONS BEING HELD BY THE GOP AND THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE ARE A CLEAR DEMONSTRATION OF THE EFFORTS BEING MADE ON THIS ISSUE. REGARDING ECUADOR, THE FOREIGN MINISTER CLAIMED THAT THE "POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT OF PERUVIAN-ECUADORIAN

RELATIONS DURING THE LAST FEW YEARS NOT ONLY HAS SHAPED ITSELF INTO ONE OF THE MOSTY DYNAMIC PROCESSES OF BORDER INTEGRATION IN THE REGION, BUT HAS ALSO DEMONSTRATED A NOTABLE CAPACITY FOR UNDERSTANDING AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF PERU AND ECUADOR." HE INDICATED PERU'S DESIRES TO SEE THIS PROCESS CONTINUE. DE LA PUENTE ALSO CONFIRMED THAT PERUVIAN PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ WOULD MEET WITH BRAZIL'S PRESIDENT GEISEL IN LIMA AT SOME UNANNOUNCED FUTURE DATE.

6. COMMENT: A. DE LA PUENTE'S COMMENTS, ESPECIALLY THOSE CONCERNING THE DESIRE OF THE GOP TO HAVE FOREIGN INVESTMENT ARE A BREATH OF FRESH AIR IN COMPARISON TO THE VIEWS (AND ACTIONS) OF HIS PREDECESSOR. IT IS A CLEAR SIGNAL FOLLOWING THE CABINET CHANGES OF THE PAST WEEKEND (LIMA 6537) THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE TAKING A MORE MODERATE DIRECTION.

B. DE LA PUENTE, THE FIRST CAREER DIPLOMAT TO HOLD THE FOREIGN MINISTRY PORTFOLIO IN MANY YEARS, IS WELL REGARDED BY THE EMBASSY. HE HAS BEEN HELPFUL BOTH AS CHIRMAN OF THE GOP'S COMMISSION NEGOTIATING A SETTLEMENT OF MARCONA AND IN OTHER ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL MATTERS. HIS REMARKS TO THE PRESS SEEM TO INDICATE THAT WE WILL HAVE A MORE HARMONIOUS AND PRODUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM THAN WITH HIS PREDECESSOR.

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